

Maine CDC/DHHS Public Health Update

February 4, 2010

Dr. Stephen Sears is our new State Epidemiologist

We at Maine CDC are extremely pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Stephen Sears as our new State Epidemiologist. A well-known infectious disease physician with a master degree in public health, Dr. Sears is from Maine and comes to us after a career that involves hospital administration (MaineGeneral and Mercy Hospitals) as well as infectious disease and public health work. More information can be found at:

http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=DHS+Press+Releases&id=90686&v=cdc_article.

Influenza Activity in Maine and the US

There has been another death due to H1N1, bringing the total to 19 reported since August. This death occurred in an adult in the 25-49 age group in southern Maine. All deaths related to H1N1 in Maine have occurred among people with underlying health conditions. A total of 11 people in Maine have been hospitalized the past month with H1N1, including 4 children. Of these hospitalizations, 4 included an admission to an intensive care unit, including 1 child and 2 young adults. Only 1 of the 11 had been vaccinated at least a few days prior to illness and only 2 had received early antiviral medicines.

Nationally, influenza activity is reported to be sporadic in most states, with no states reporting widespread activity. Almost all of the influenza [viruses](#) identified so far continue to be 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the virus chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the [antiviral drugs](#) oseltamivir and zanamivir with rare exception. More information can be obtained at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm#whomap>.

With over 900,000 doses of vaccine distributed in Maine to about 500 health care providers and a variety of free flu clinic settings throughout the state, everyone should consider getting vaccinated with the H1N1 pandemic strain of influenza. Even those not at high-risk for complications from influenza should consider vaccine because either they can suffer complications or can become infect those who are at higher risk for complications.

Health care providers who treat people at high risk for complications from influenza (such as those with underlying conditions, pregnant women, young children, and those older than 64) are urged to vaccinate those patients and to treat with antiviral medicines at the onset of symptoms.

Vaccine can still be found in a number of public clinics, including many that are offering it for free. These can be located by calling 211 or by visiting www.maineclu.gov. The free clinics are in bold font.

Group A Strep Update

Maine CDC has now received 11 reports of cases of invasive Group A Streptococcal (GAS) infections seen in January in Maine. Four of these have resulted in Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS), of which three have died. Although GAS is a common bacteria in the throat and skin, often causing strep throat or impetigo, invasive GAS disease is rare, with the five-year median in Maine being 19 cases per year. There is no reported increase in cases in nearby states, and these patients in Maine do not appear to be associated with a specific area of the state, or with influenza or with health care facilities. More information, including recommendations, can be found in last week's health advisory at:

www.maineclu.gov or at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/groupastreptococcal_g.htm.

Earthquakes and Public Health

There are many public health concerns as a result from earthquakes, including those related to victims of the disaster and those related to people traveling to post earthquake zones such as Haiti to assist in recovery efforts. The US CDC's earthquake website has helpful information for those who may be involved with the Haiti relief efforts or who are interested in improving their preparations here at home. <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/>

Feb. 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This article from the Black AIDS Institute describes the HIV/AIDS infrastructure in Haiti after the earthquake:

<http://www.blackaids.org/ShowArticle.aspx?articletype=SITEFEATURE&articleid=770&pagenumber=1>. For more information on HIV/AIDS in Maine, become a fan of Maine CDC's HIV, STD, and Viral Hepatitis program on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Augusta-ME/Maine-HIV-STD-and-Viral-Hepatitis-Program/91975685100>

Updates from Federal Partners

- US CDC updated this Q&A about the 2009-2010 flu season: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/current-season.htm>
- This MMWR discusses H1N1 outbreaks in long term care facilities. There have been 11 such outbreaks in Maine, including one described in this report: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5903a3.htm?s_cid=mm5903a3_e%0d%0a
- A non-safety, voluntary recall of some .5 mL Sanofi Pasteur pre-filled syringe doses of H1N1 vaccine has been announced. US CDC answers common questions about the recall here: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/qa_recall.htm Maine health care providers with this vaccine are being notified.

How to Stay Updated

- **Follow Maine CDC's Social Media Updates:**
 - **Facebook** (search for "Maine CDC")
 - **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth>)
 - **MySpace** (www.myspace.com/mainepublichealth)
 - **Maine CDC's Blog** (<http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com>)
- **For clinical consultation, outbreak management guidance**, and reporting of an outbreak of H1N1 call Maine CDC's toll free 24-hour phone line at: 1-800-821-5821.
- **For general questions:**
 - call **2-1-1** from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days per week
 - e-mail flu.questions@maine.gov

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

February 2, 2010



Cumulative data since April 27, 2009

- 2,232 lab tested cases of H1N1 to date
 - 230 Maine residents have been hospitalized
- 19 deaths reported to date
- 88% of lab confirmed H1N1 cases in Maine residents are under the age of 50 (range 0-89 years, mean of 23 years)

New* This Week

- Federal Flu Code: Regional
 - 2 new confirmed and probable cases of H1N1 this week
 - One new hospitalization
 - One new death reported
 - No new outbreaks
- * "New" defined as reported during the previous week (Sunday through Saturday)

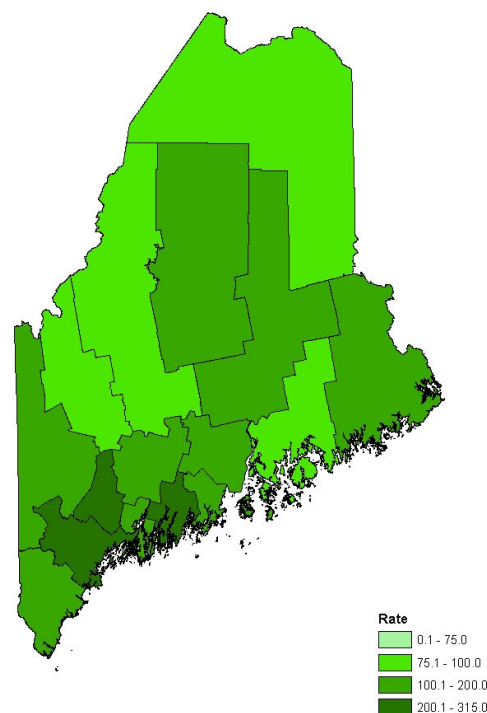
Characteristics of Lab Confirmed H1N1 Influenza Cases - Maine Residents, 2009 - 10

Age		At Risk					Hospital Care			Deaths		
Age Group	#	New	HCW	New	Pregnant	New	Hospitalized	New	ICU	New	#	New
<5	245	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	4	0	0	0
5 to 18	1012	0	1	0	0	0	29	0	7	0	0	0
19 to 24	224	0	11	0	8	0	15	0	2	0	1	0
25 to 49	482	2	37	1	23	0	62	1	17	1	3	1
50 to 64	208	0	15	0	0	0	65	0	25	0	7	0
≥65	61	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	10	0	8	0
Total	2232	2	64	1	31	0	230	1	65	1	19	1

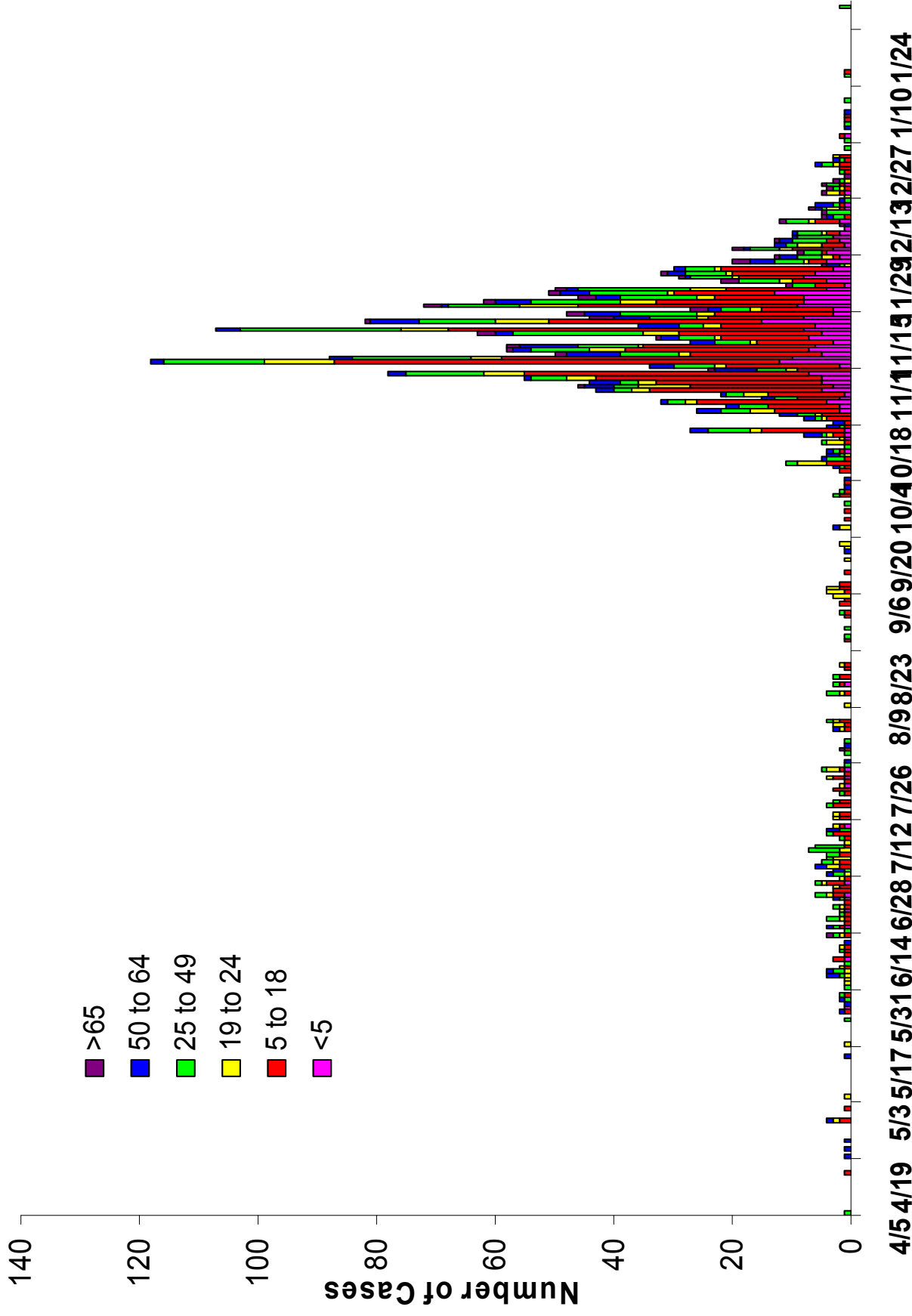
Lab confirmed H1N1 Influenza Cases by County – Maine Residents, 2009 - 10

County	Maine Residents	New	Hosp	New
Androscoggin	223	0	30	0
Aroostook	63	0	7	0
Cumberland	640	0	37	0
Franklin	28	0	8	0
Hancock	49	0	7	0
Kennebec	158	0	18	0
Knox	43	0	6	0
Lincoln	103	0	1	0
Oxford	69	0	8	0
Penobscot	294	1	47	0
Piscataquis	21	0	8	0
Sagadahoc	43	0	0	0
Somerset	47	0	6	0
Waldo	44	0	2	0
Washington	63	0	9	0
York	344	1	36	1
Total	2232	2	230	1

Lab Confirmed H1N1 Infections per 100,000 People by County - Maine Residents, 2009 - 10



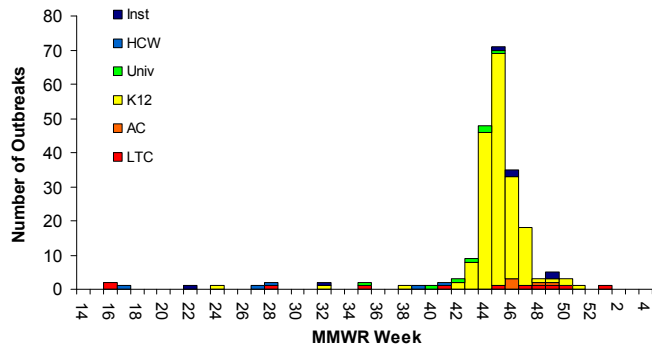
Confirmed Cases of H1N1 Influenza By Onset Date* and Age Group – Maine Residents, 2009 – 10



*if onset date is not available, the date reported to the state is used as the onset date

Influenza-Like Illness Outbreaks – Maine, 2009 - 10

Influenza-Like Illness Outbreaks by Facility Type - Maine, April – present, 2009 - 10



Outbreak Facility Type Key:

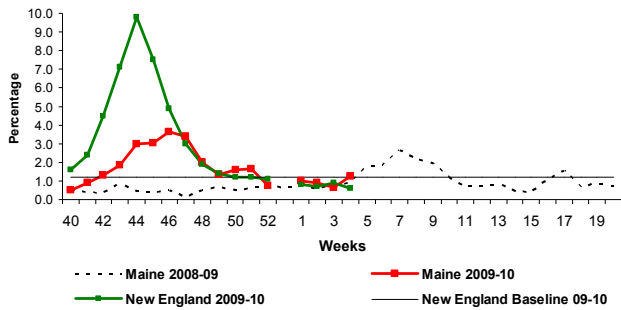
LTC - Long Term Care Facility
AC - Acute Care Facility (nosocomial)
K12 - School (K-12) or daycare
Univ - School (residential) or University
HCW - Health care workers
Inst - Other institutions (workplaces, correctional facilities etc)

Influenza-Like Illness Outbreaks by Facility Type and County - Maine, April – Present, 2009 - 10

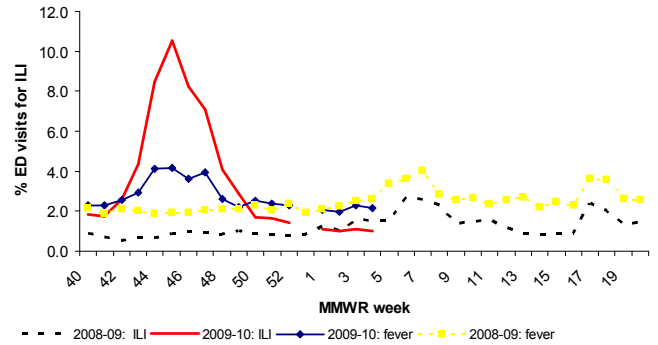
County	LTC	New	AC	New	K12	New	Univ	New	HCW	New	Inst	New
Androscoggin	0	0	2	0	18	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Aroostook	0	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	1	0	2	0	15	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
Franklin	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hancock	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kennebec	1	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Knox	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Oxford	2	0	0	0	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Penobscot	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Piscataquis	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	1	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Waldo	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Washington	1	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
York	3	0	0	0	14	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total	11	0	5	0	179	0	7	0	3	0	8	0

Surveillance Information

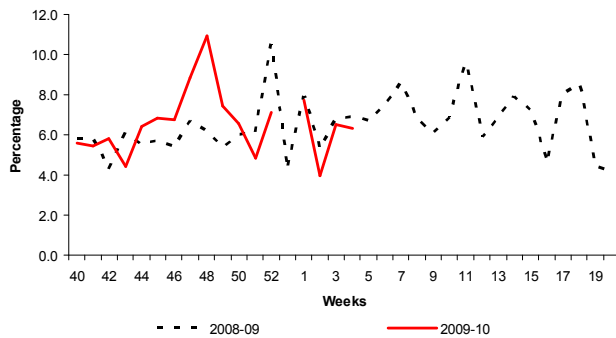
Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness – Maine, 2008-10



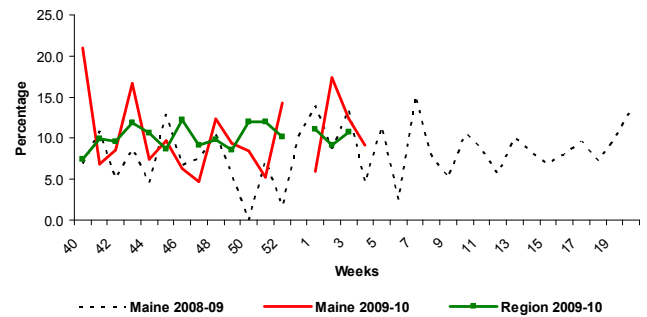
Emergency Department Visits for ILI and Fever at Thirteen Hospitals – Maine, 2008 -10



Hospital Admissions Due to Pneumonia or Influenza – Maine, 2008-10



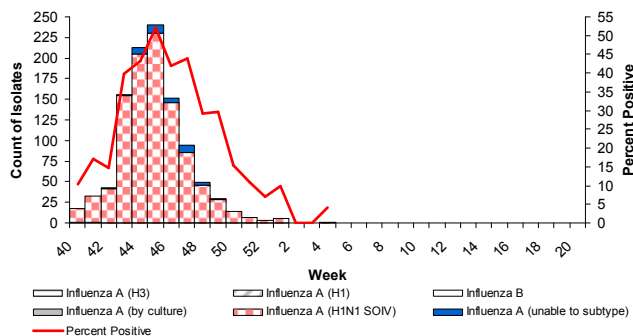
Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia or Influenza – Maine, 2008-10



Lab Data

- 7,819 influenza tests have been performed at HETL since April 27, 2009
 - 18.1% of tests have been positive for H1N1

Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from HETL – Maine, 2009-10



Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from Two Reference Laboratories - Maine, 2009 - 10

